GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4025
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2000
SETTING UP OF TRI SERVICE COMMAND
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced the setting up of a Tri-Service Command to clamp down on increasing arms and narcotics being run by insurgent groups through Sea Lanes in the Bay of Bengal particularly in Andaman & Nicobar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the infiltration and smuggling is likely to be stopped thereby?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): The Fortress Commander Andaman & Nicobar Islands (FORTAN), established in 1977 co-ordinates the operation of all three forces in the Islands. Indian Navy and Coast Guard jointly carry out the patrolling and surveillance of Indian Coastlines and Coastal Waters to prevent the smuggling of arms and narcotics by these undesirable groups.